

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 973**

LCO No. 5690

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
PROGRAMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) As used in this section and
2 sections 2 and 3 of this act:

3 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as
4 provided in section 10a-34 of the general statutes; and

5 (2) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
6 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes and includes, but is not
7 limited to, hospital-based occupational schools, barber schools and
8 hairdressing schools authorized pursuant to section 10a-22b of the
9 general statutes.

10 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Board of Regents for Higher
11 Education, in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, shall
12 develop a written definition for all sub-baccalaureate certificates
13 awarded by an institution of higher education or private occupational
14 school in the state for the purpose of creating consistency among the
15 various sub-baccalaureate certificate programs. Not later than January

16 1, 2016, the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education
17 shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
18 general statutes, a report containing such written definition to the joint
19 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
20 matters relating to higher education.

21 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2016,
22 and annually thereafter, each institution of higher education and
23 private occupational school in the state shall provide data for the prior
24 academic year to the Office of Higher Education regarding its sub-
25 baccalaureate certificate programs and the types of sub-baccalaureate
26 certificates it offers in a uniform format developed by said office. Such
27 data shall include, but not be limited to, the following for each sub-
28 baccalaureate certificate program:

29 (1) Name and subject matter area of such program;

30 (2) Total enrollment in such program;

31 (3) Any entry-level requirements for enrollment in such program;

32 (4) Number and type of certificate awarded by such program;

33 (5) Whether academic credits are offered as part of such program;

34 (6) Whether there is a clear pathway from successful completion of
35 such program to enrollment in a related associate degree program;

36 (7) Whether such program leads to an industry-recognized
37 credential;

38 (8) Whether a student can combine the certificate awarded upon
39 successful completion of such program with any other certificate
40 awarded upon the successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate
41 certificate program in order to achieve a heightened level of
42 qualification for a particular trade or occupation; and

43 (9) Average length of time to complete such program.

44 (b) Not later than January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
45 Office of Higher Education shall compile such data for purposes of
46 comparing the various types of sub-baccalaureate programs offered by
47 the institutions of higher education and private occupational schools
48 and determining (1) which programs are similar, (2) student interest in
49 each program and similar programs, and (3) the necessity of offering
50 each program. Not later than July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, said
51 office shall make such data available on its Internet web site for the
52 purpose of enabling a student or prospective student to make an
53 informed decision about whether to enroll in a sub-baccalaureate
54 program and, if so, which program is the best fit for such student.

55 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Each institution of higher
56 education and private occupational school shall develop for each sub-
57 baccalaureate certificate program it offers a one-page fact sheet that
58 provides basic information regarding such program to potential
59 applicants, including, but not limited to, tuition, fees, costs of books
60 and supplies, room and board, graduation and job placement rates and
61 average student debt.

62 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The Board of Regents for
63 Higher Education shall establish a working group comprised of deans
64 of continuing education programs at the regional community-technical
65 colleges to review all of the noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate
66 programs offered by each regional community-technical college. Not
67 later than July 1, 2016, the working group shall design a uniform
68 naming convention for such programs to enable students to
69 distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet
70 varied requirements within the same field of study. Programs that
71 vary shall be uniformly designated with indications of different,
72 enhanced or more demanding requirements.

73 (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, and periodically thereafter as
74 prescribed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the working
75 group shall review the tuition of uniformly named sub-baccalaureate
76 certificate programs leading to the same qualifications to determine if

77 any cost variations in the tuition and fees for such program are
78 reasonable.

79 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than January 1, 2017,
80 the Office of Higher Education shall develop a program to annually
81 audit not less than a sample of student data from all sub-baccalaureate
82 certificate programs offered by the institutions of higher education and
83 the private occupational schools. Said office shall not disclose any
84 personally identifiable information of any student obtained as a result
85 of performing the annual audit.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

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Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section